

Wednesday 30th September 2026

Dear Friends

It's amazing what lies just below the surface...

All of the work we have carried out in our church over the past few weeks has unearthed some incredible things. We have taken up floorboards, exposed what lies beneath both the lower and the upper platforms and peered into parts of our church that haven't seen the light of day for decades. We've found wiring that was pretty dangerous, electrical components no-one seemed to know about, and screws, nails and fixings going back to the days of the church's construction. Seeing the craftsmanship of these unnamed and unknown builders who first built the face of our church has been a real privilege.

And, as ever, with anything different or new, it got me thinking about Jesus!

We are in the unique position of not knowing anything about what He looked like - what His outward image was, but knowing an awful lot about what was going on in His heart and His head. In other words, we may not know His face, but we know what lies beneath. And I can't begin to tell you how happy I am about this! Imagine if we knew with absolute certainty what Jesus looked like? Would this lead to people having surgery to look more like Him? Would we wear masks made in His image? Imagine how it would change our faith! Because the simple fact is that how somebody looks means nothing to God, but how someone's heart means everything. If our outward image means more to us than how we think or how we act or how we love then we are in some trouble!

Soon the floorboards will return, carpet will be laid and what lies beneath our church will once more be hidden from the world. It will be decades before we have to do all the work we have done this year once more, but none of what we see and will enjoy to help our worship would work without all the stuff that is hidden. As Isaiah 53 says,

He had no beauty or majesty to attract us to him,
nothing in his appearance that we should desire him.

He was despised and rejected by mankind,
a man of suffering, and familiar with pain.

Like one from whom people hide their faces
he was despised, and we held him in low esteem.

How something or somebody looks means nothing. What is hidden is what God looks at. May we remember this in our discipleship and our walk with Him. Amen.

Every blessing, Keith

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PASTORAL CARE AND VISITS

If you would like to have a chat with our Minister, Rev Keith Parr, or would like him to visit you, please speak to him after the Sunday service, call him on 07999 027803 or email him on minister@earlsfieldbaptist.org.uk.

RENDEZVOUS

NEXT MEETINGS
THURSDAY
1ST OCTOBER
5TH NOVEMBER
1.00 PM TO 2.30 PM

What a lovely afternoon, good weather, 18 guests, 2 new members returning from last month, another new member and Val and Shanthi came back were able to come again. Also, it was lovely to see our very own Molly who hasn't been able to come for a while. I'll have to have more time off as they had 4 extra people!

We had a lovely lady Shukurat who works for the Western Riverside Waste Authority. Recycling. Shukurat talked to us about our recycling, what the aim of it all was, why, what and the importance of it all. Then she went through each part of how they want everyone to 'Reduce, Reuse and Recycle'. It was very interesting and informative finding out the reasons for not putting the wrong sort of rubbish in the wrong place. For example, we should wrap broken glass in newspaper or something else and put in the waste/rubbish bin NOT the glass recycling as this could contaminate the other recycling such as paper. Now most of you would be thinking along the same lines as me, the glass in the recycling bags might get broken as sometimes the way it's thrown about. Interesting - maybe the bin personnel are more careful now?



An interesting fact - waste from Wandsworth and surrounding Boroughs isn't sent to landfill. It all gets reused in one way or another. I could go on but, if you are still interested in how they reuse it all, I'm sure if you asked one of our guests or one of us leaders, we will be able to answer your questions. Or start coming along to Rendezvous as we are talking about visiting the recycling centre, so you'd be able to come along with us. Then, as it's been said about September being a New Start for many, this could become a new beginning for yourself. Now there's food for thought, or of course if you already attend, bring a friend to the October meeting.

Sadly, since our last meeting, one of our ladies, Joyce, who came along with the ladies from St. Andrews keep fit group, passed away.

Our next meeting will be Thursday 1st October where we will be attempting to play Bullseye.

All adults are welcome to come along - we look forward to seeing you. Doors are open from 12.45 pm with our meeting starting at 1.00 pm and finishing at 2.30 pm.



FYI advance notice, our meeting on Thursday 5th November, we have a guest from The Royal Chelsea Hospital (Chelsea Pensioners) coming to speak to us.

Dawn and Team

Wandsworth Older People's Forum

WOPF for short is an organisation that is open to Wandsworth residents. It provides help and support, useful services and contact details, along with a "what's on" listing of local events, meetings and forums where they have speakers about relevant issues.

September's forum was about sharing your experience if you had been admitted to hospital last year and the discharge, care etc and any issues you might have had after being discharged.

They send out a regular newsletter four times a year letting people know information from Citizens Advice to Silverline (which is a 24hr help line with someone to talk to when you need them). The membership is £10 a year.

Rendezvous has joined this on behalf of our members but its open to anyone living in the Wandsworth Borough (see WWW.WOPF.ORG.UK)



Well done! To everyone who took part in the Earlsfield Allotment Society's Annual Show at the beginning of September. Several people from our congregation entered flower arrangements and received 1st, 2nd and 3rd prizes!

Thanks to all who helped with our Harvest Thanksgiving collecting and displaying flowers and harvest gifts and for distributing them to the needy.

Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." Philippians 4 v6-7

CURIOUS ABOUT FAITH?



*Explore life, faith &
meaning with Alpha at
Earlsfield Baptist Church*

Have you ever wondered if there's more to life?

Got questions about faith, God or Christianity?

Alpha is a relaxed, welcoming space to explore the big questions of life.

No pressure. No judgement.

You don't need to know anything about Christianity — just come as you are, bring your questions and join the conversation.

JUST SHOW UP!! EVERYONE IS WELCOME.

earlsfieldbaptist.org

****SUNDAYS****

Alpha talks 11am at church service

****MONDAY EVENINGS****

7.30–8.30pm · Online via Zoom
Video + relaxed discussion

****TUESDAY MORNINGS****

11am–12pm · At Earlsfield Baptist Church
Video + relaxed discussion

Starting Sunday 4th October 2026

Running until Sunday 13 December

Whether you're a questioner, seeker, sceptic, curious about faith — or simply want to find out more — *you're very welcome.*



COMFORT

Please note there will not be a Comfort meeting on Sunday 4th October.

Prayer Ministry opportunity

Once our chapel is back up and running, we would really love to have a space for people to receive prayer, pray with others or to sit quietly after a service with God. We know what the space will look like, and how this might work on zoom too, but what we don't have are the people to minister to others and that is where you come in.

Prayer ministry is a beautiful way to serve others in our church family and does not require a big commitment simply the availability to stay and pray if needed after a service every so often.

If this seems like something you feel that you could offer, we need you to have a little bit of training. We plan to do this by zoom at **7.30 on TUESDAY 20TH OCTOBER** for one hour (same log in details as those used on Sunday mornings).

If you are unsure or have questions, just ask Karen Parr. If you can't make that time but wish to do this ministry, also chat to Karen.

Thank you

SUNDAYS!

Thanks to Louise for leading our Harvest Thanksgiving. Several people have asked for copies of her message and these have been sent by email with this newsletter and copies will be available in Church.

Please be encouraged to come to Church on Sunday mornings so that you can physically meet others in our Church Family. Morning services continue to be available on Zoom if you are unable to attend in person. Here are the joining instructions:

Join Zoom Meeting from computer or device

- <https://zoom.us/j/98894345143?pwd=eUdkNWJFakl2Q044V1JBZEdrMFh1dz09>
- Meeting ID: 988 9434 5143
- Passcode: 769098
- **Dial in from landline phone – standard rates apply**
 - 020 8080 6591 or 020 8080 6592
 - Meeting ID: 988 9434 5143 followed by #
 - Participant number: this can be bypassed with #
 - Passcode: 769098 followed followed by #



SUNDAY MORNINGS – 11.15 AM TO NOON

Sunday School for 5-11 yr olds with various activities including craftwork, learning songs and listening to Bible stories each week.



SUNDAY MORNINGS – AFTER SERVICE CUPPA

We urgently need someone to take over from Doreen who has made more cups of tea than she cares to count! If you can help each week or just once a month, please have a word with Doreen.

MONDAYS AND TUESDAYS!



Monday evening Zoom Call – everyone welcome to join.

- 7.30 pm to 8.30 pm.
- Zoom joining details are the same as those used on Sunday (see above)

Tuesday Morning Bible Study Group meets at **Chango (366 Garratt Lane) at **11.00 am****

Everyone welcome - please come along to join us for an hour or so.

Prayer Walk is also on Tuesdays – meet at the Church at 1.00 pm.



We open our Church whenever we can during the week for an hour or so. Please drop in for a cuppa and a chat or to spend a quiet time with our Lord. Open to all. If you would like to help, please have a word with Karen, Doreen or Beatrice.

2026: YEAR OF PRAYER

A reminder of regular events in our 2026 Year of Prayer calendar:



Daily

We are grateful to Lili for continuing to send out our daily **Prayer Texts** as these give us the opportunity to reflect on people from the 'prayer pot' and local/worldwide events each day. Prayer is such an important part of our Christian life (refer back to Karen's article on Prayer Ministry) and those we pray for have said they feel comforted and blessed knowing others are praying for them. To join, just text 07579 796157 – no name needed – and your number will be added to the distribution list. You can also phone this number from your mobile or landline and leave a message for prayer.

Weekly

Prayer Walks now take place every Tuesday from 1.00 pm to 2.00 pm. The group is working their way around the streets in Earlsfield, walking together and praying as they go. Anyone can come along so please join if you can spare the time.

Monthly

Our **Monthly Zoom Church Prayer Meeting** is on the fourth Wednesday of the month. The October meeting will be on **Wednesday 28th October** starting at 7.30 pm for about an hour. Joining instructions are the same as those used on Sundays and for the Monday Zoom small group. An email is usually sent out on the day of the meeting as a reminder.



From John Sharp:

Many of you will remember Christine Millbery, our former Tranmere Road neighbour, who moved to Bridgwater in Somerset five years ago, or so. Christine was a familiar face in and around the area and a regular member of the congregation at EBC, where she was Baptised by Gavin.

I first got to know Christine and her partner Antonio, when we moved back to Earlsfield in 2018; lovely people and we enjoyed some entertaining times – not least at 'social gatherings'! Recently, I have been in touch with Christine, regarding her former neighbour, Pat, who, sadly and unexpectedly, died last month, and we had a good chat on the telephone, a couple of weeks ago. The great news is that Christine is doing well and thoroughly enjoying life in the West Country; not least, despite some health concerns over recent years (she had visited EBC when up in London for hospital appointments), she is now back to full fitness. She has also become involved with her local Salvation Army, where she is an associate member! Antonio (a chef) is still preparing the finest Portuguese cuisine for them both and, to work off those calories, Christine has an exhausting weekly schedule of keep fit classes to keep her occupied. Of course, Christine sends love to all at EBC and has asked me to pass on good wishes from them both. If any of you would like to get in touch with Christine then, please, let me know.



SUNDAY 18TH OCTOBER 2026
ALL AGE COMMUNION SERVICE AT 11.00 AM

Our morning service on the third Sunday of the month will include Communion. This is an opportunity for **all members of our Family – young and old – to remember the Last Supper and celebrate the death and resurrection of our Lord.** Bread and wine will be served to those in Church. If you are joining by Zoom, please have your bread and wine ready at home.



MISSION FOCUS FOR OCTOBER 2026
“CANCER RESEARCH UK”

When we asked the congregation for suggestions of charities we can support through our monthly Mission Focuses, several people said “Cancer Research UK” so that charity will be our Mission Focus in October. Most people know someone who has been diagnosed with cancer or might even have received that diagnosis themselves – the “C Word” is feared by all but, through charities like Cancer Research UK, millions of people have received treatment and have been able to lead full lives even when living with cancer. From their website:

Making discoveries. Driving progress. Bringing hope.

Cancer is one of the world’s greatest health challenges. In the UK, 1 in 2 people will get cancer in their lifetime, along with millions more around the world, causing huge amounts of suffering and cutting any lives short. Cancer Research UK strives to beat cancer. But the disease is so complex that it is unlikely there will ever be a single cure. ‘Beating’ cancer involves discovering how and why it develops and evolves, then using that knowledge to find ways to prevent people developing it, detect it earlier when they do and develop new cutting-edge treatments. It also means finding ways to minimise the impact cancer has on those who live with it by discovering kinder, less disruptive treatments. This is how cancer will be beaten – by many brilliant people working together to make important discoveries and driving these discoveries forward into tangible progress that will mean everybody lives longer, better lives. We are beating cancer every day.

Cancer Research UK states that, for every £1 donated, over 80p is used to beat cancer. The rest is used to raise funds for the future. All funds will go towards Cancer Research UK’s life-saving work.

If you are able to make a gift to “Cancer Research UK”, please use the envelopes provided in church during the month of October. If you give your regular offering to EBC by bank transfer, the reference for your gift should be “Oct Comm – CRUK”.

EBC Bank Account details if you wish to give regular or communion offerings in this way:

Account Name: Earlsfield Baptist Church

Sort Code: 20-57-76

Account No: 73190404